IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

SANDRA E. FLUCK,)
Plaintiff,)) C. A. No. 06-188-GMS
v.)
BELLA VISTA DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a Virginia corporation, BELLA VISTA)) TRIAL BY A JURY DEMANDED
TOWNHOME CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a Delaware)
Corporation, RESORT REALTY GROUP,)
INC., a Delaware corporation, WILLIAM J.	
MITCHELL, individually, and WAYNE MITCHELL, individually,) . }
wiii Ciletee, marridany,)
Defendants.	,

APPENDIX TO DEFENDANT RESORT REALTY GROUP, INC.'S OPENING BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

FERRY, JOSEPH & PEARCE, P.A.

/s/Robert K. Pearce ROBERT K. PEARCE, ESQ. (I.D. No. 191) THOMAS R. RIGGS, ESQ. (I.D. No. 4631) 824 Market Street, Suite 904 Wilmington, DE 19899 (302) 575-1555 rpearce@ferryjoseph.com Attorneys for Defendant Resort Realty Group, Inc.

Dated: June 21, 2007

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COPY

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

SANDRA E. FLUCK, an individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

V.

OC.A. No.

06-188-GMS

BELLA VISTA DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a

Virginia corporation, BELLA VISTA

TOWNHOME CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION,

INC., a Delaware corporation,

RE/MAX REALTY GROUP, a Delaware

franchise, WILLIAM J. MITCHELL,

Individually, and WAYNE MITCHELL,

Individually,

Defendants.

Deposition of WAYNE L. MITCHELL, taken before Cheryl A. Anthony, Court Reporter, in the law offices of Doroshow, Pasquale, Krawitz & Bhaya, 911 South DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware, on Friday, May 11, 2007, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

DOROSHOW, PASQUALE, KRAWITZ & BHAYA BY: ANDREA GREEN, ESQUIRE 213 East DuPont Highway Millsboro, Delaware 19966 Attorney for Plaintiff.

(Appearances Cont'd...)

ORIGINAL RETAINED BY ANDREA GREEN, ESQUIRE

ANTHONY REPORTING
PO Box 234
Dover, Delaware 19903
(302)674-8884

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- 19
- 20 Α. I would have to look it up in my book. 21 sorry. McLean, one lives in McLean, and the other lives in -- I don't know. I mean when I phone them, 22 23 everything is all -- you just push the button.
- 24 Q. So you have their phone numbers sort of on

Wayne Mitchell - Green 7 Vista Townhomes in Rehoboth? 7 Α. Yes. 2 Okav. And when you said that you are 3 responsible or you have been responsible for running the 4 LLC since 2001, tell me what that entails. 5 Sales, construction, and day-to-day 6 7 maintenance. Okay. Let's start with construction, since 8 Ο. I think that is kind of the first thing in the process. 9 Uh-huh. Α. 10 What would be involved in the construction? 11 Ο. Where did you start? 12 MR. CASARINO: Do you mean what was 13 14 involved? 15 BY MS. GREEN: What was involved in the construction of 16 Ο. Bella Vista Townhomes in Rehoboth? 17 At what point do you want --Α. 18 Well, when you first conceived of the idea. 19 Q. Well, you hire an engineer. You hire an 20 Α. You get all of your permits from different 21 state agencies and the county. 22 And you were intimately involved in the 23 Ο. day-to-day workings of doing those things? 24

Wayne Mitchell - Green 8 1 Α. Yes. 2 Hiring the engineer? 0. 3 Α. Yes. Hiring the architect? 4 Ο. 5 Α. Yes. 6 Q. How about if I tell you one more ground 7 rule --8 Α. Right. And that is make sure that I finish asking 9 the question before you answer. And I'm not saying that 10 to be rude. I'm just saying that because the court 11 reporter can't take down two people speaking at the same 12 time. Okay? 13 14 Α. Okay. When you are talking about hiring the 15 0. architect, is that the architect who would come up with 16 the plans, including the plans that you produced in your 17 responses to the Request for Production? 18 19 Α. Yes. 20 Okay. And I have in front of me a copy of the Bella Vista Townhomes site plans, and it's a series 21 I think it's maybe about somewhere between 22 23 ten and 15 pages. I'm just going to show that to you. 24 That is what you are talking about in terms of the

- A. No. I'm an agent with them. I'm not an employee. They don't pay me. I just generate my own funds.
 - Q. So you worked with RE/MAX, but not as an employee? As an independent contractor?
 - A. An independent contractor, yes.
 - Q. Have you given any recorded or written statements to anybody in connection with this particular incident that we are involved with today?
 - A. No.

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Wayne Mitchell - Green

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third floor having two bedrooms, two full baths, and the

2 laundry area. There is a small deck on the back on the

3 first floor.

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- Q. Now, that was a description of each individual unit. How many units total are there?
 - A. 36,
 - Q. How many buildings?
- A. There are six buildings, one with four, four with six, and one with eight. Did I add them right?
- Q. I'm sorry. You said one building with four units?
 - A. Yeah, one with eight and four with six.
 - Q. Okay. And the building at which this fall occurred was building A. Is that the building with --
 - A. Six units.
- Q. Six units. Okay. And the accident happened at unit 5; is that right?
 - A. Unit 5.
 - Q. And unit 5, if you are looking at the plans, is it correct that unit 5 would be the door that is second from the right?
 - A. Facing the building.
- Q. If you are facing the building. Okay. As you pull into the area, if you are driving to these

Anthony Reporting (302) 674-8884 A-7

Wayne Mitchell - Green

45

- A. When we needed an elevation, we needed a step, and we decided that was the kind of step we were going to put in.
- Q. Okay. Did somebody tell you you needed a step, or you knew it?
 - A. You know it by code.
 - Q. Because what was the problem?
- A. It was more than probably seven and a quarter inches. I think it was seven and a quarter.

 Don't hold me to the seven and a quarter. I'm pretty sure that's what it is.
- Q. Okay. So your recollection is if it's over seven and a quarter inches from the ground --
 - A. From the ground step.
- Q. -- from the ground surface up to the surface of the porch --
 - A. You'd never pass code.
- 18 Q. Okay. So you knew because of the
 19 measurement that you needed some type of a step there?
 - A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay.

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- A. Some units required it; some units did not.
- Q. Okay. Because of the grade of the ground?
- 24 A. Yes.

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And this was at some point before you got a Ο.) certificate of occupancy. And was Ronnie Baker out 2 there anyway, doing some of the landscaping work? 3 Α. Putting the pavers in. 4 Okay. The pavers in other areas, not the 5 0. steps, because you hadn't discussed with him the steps 6 7 yet? Putting these pavers in right here. Α. 8 You are talking about --9 From one end to the other; you start from 10 the middle and work your way to the buildings. 11 MR. CASARINO: So we are not confused, why 12 don't we refer to the pavers, as he has, as the ground 13 level, and steps, as he has, as the concrete steps? 14 MS. GREEN: Well, he has referred to it as a 15 large landscaping paver. And it is the same, exact kind 16 of landscaping paver that is used along the retaining 17 18 wall. BY MS. GREEN: 19 Those aren't steps along the retaining wall, 20 Α. 21 are they? MR. CASARINO: It wasn't for that purpose. 22 I'm just saying so we don't get confused when we are 23

saying what one thing is when another thing is --

24

-	
	Wayne Mitchell - Green 47
1	THE WITNESS: I've seen people step on them,
2	yeah.
3	BY MS. GREEN:
4	Q. But that is a retaining wall; is that right?
5	A. Right.
6	Q. That is a retaining wall.
7	A. But I've seen people step on them. I mean
8	it's not a step. They are not a step, maybe, but I have
9	seen people step up there. So maybe it's a step.
10	Q. Okay. So the items that you utilized as
11	steps are the same kind of pavers as Terra Scapes used
12	at the top of the retaining wall?
13	A. Yes. A lot of people go in there without
14	falling down, too. You want to hear that?
15	MR. CASARINO: Let's
16	THE WITNESS: Sorry. Sorry.
17	BY MS. GREEN:
18	Q. Okay. At some point you went out there to
19	the property as the ground level pavers or the
20	cobblestone area was being placed, and you knew that you
21	needed some type of a step; is that right?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. And did you consider putting in the poured
24	concrete step?

48 Wayne Mitchell - Green A. No. 1 So the only thing you did was you Okay. discussed with Ronnie Baker from Terra Scapes what kind 3 of a step he could put in there? 4 Α. Yes. 5 Okay. And to the best of your recollection, 6 can you tell us the contents of your conversation with 7 Ronnie Baker about those steps? 8 Let's put them in. 9 Α. Did you discuss Okay. Let's put what in? 0. 10 with him what you wanted? 11 Yes. Α. 12 Okay. Did you say: Do you have any 13 0. suggestion? Or did you say to him: This is what I 14 15 want? I had suggestions, yes. Δ. No. 16 And what were your suggestions? 17 0. Let's put in a good step that matches the Α. 18 pavers for a nice curb appeal. 19 And was that kind of about as much design 20 work as you did, and then he said: This is what we can 21 22 do? Α. Yes. 23 What did he describe to you that he Okay. 24 Ο.

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Wayne Mitchell - Green
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    could do?
                                                         Let's
                 Well, we did one. And then we said:
           Α.
2
    do it.
3
                 You said you did one. Do you recall which
           0.
4
     unit --
5
                 Six.
           Α.
6
                  You put in the step at unit 6 --
7
           Ο.
                  Right.
8
           Α.
                  -- which is one of the photographs we looked
           0.
9
     at already?
10
          Α.
                  Yes.
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                  And you liked the way it looked?
            Q.
12
                  Yes.
13
            A.
                  Did you talk to him about what size it had
            Q.
14
     to be?
15
                  We had six -- We actually had the guy come
            Α.
16
     down and measure them, and he agreed to them, I think.
17
     I think -- I'm pretty sure that's what happened. We
18
      didn't put them all in the same day. We put in like.
19
      one, measured it, it passed code, let's go for it.
20
                  You said you measured it and it passed code.
21
      What code are you talking about?
22
                   The Sussex County Code, the building code.
23
            Α.
                   Do you know what portion of the code it
24
            Q.
```

50 Wayne Mitchell - Green 7 matched? I have no clue. 2 Α. Do you know who it is that came down and 3 measured it and looked at it? Δ 5 Α. Charlie. Charlie who? 0. 6 I don't know Charlie's last name. 7 Α. MR. COATES: Not me. 8 THE WITNESS: No, Charlie with Sussex County 9 Code inspection. 10 BY MS. GREEN: 11 And did you discuss with Terra Scapes what 12 Q. you would pay them for the work that they were doing? 13 Unfortunately, no. 14 Α. Okay. So that was the genesis of the 15 Ο. problem that you had with the invoice that we have 16 discussed earlier? 17 Yes. Now, that invoice is not for the 18 steps. You read the invoice. 19 Okay. So that invoice is just for pavers 20 Ο. 21 around new concrete stoops? Steps. What his invoice says --Α. 22 Okay. I'm just reading what it says. 23 Ο. -- because you have a big time differential 24 Α.

Wayne Mitchell - Pearce 67 1 Α. Correct. RE/MAX Realty Group had nothing to do with 2 Ο. the hiring of the engineer or architect, did they? 3 Α. Did not. 4 5 Okay. With regard to the design of the 0. porch step, RE/MAX had nothing to do with that, did 6 7 they? 8 Α. Did not. With regard to the selection of contractors 9 Q. for the porch step -- and when I say porch, I mean porch 10 11 and step --12 Α. Okay. -- RE/MAX was not involved in that decision 13 Q. 14 ever? 15 Α. No. With the decision to hire Terra Scapes and 16 Henlopen Masonry, RE/MAX was not involved in that 17 decision, were they? 18 Α. No. 19 With regard to the decision to put in this 20 Ο. 21 paver step or porch, RE/MAX was not involved in that decision, were they? 22 23 Α. No. And the decision to change from that paver 24 Ο.

Wayne Mitchell - Pearce 68 step to a concrete step, RE/MAX was not involved in that] 2 decision, were they? 3 Α. No. Ο. Was RE/MAX involved at all in any part of 4 the construction of the project? 5 Α. No. 6 7 Was RE/MAX involved at all in any part of the maintenance of what was in existence at the time of 8 the accident? 9 10 A. No. 1.1 0. Other than you and your son, was anybody 12 from RE/MAX involved at all in this project? 13 Α. No. Back -- sometimes we were out of town and we would have somebody sit there. My son-in-law, 14 he's a RE/MAX agent, as well. We've got a whole family 15 full of them. 16 And that was --17 Ο. Just as an agent. 18 Α. Is it fair to say that RE/MAX had no 19 0. involvement in this case at all, other than acting as 20 21 the sales agent for the project? Correct. 22 Д. And with regard to the open house that was 23 being held on the day of the accident, that was set up 24

Wayne Mitchell - Coates 69 1 by you and your son; is that correct? 2 Α. Correct. 3 0. You didn't report to RE/MAX about that, did Δ you? 5 Α. We don't ask. We just did it. 6 Ο. Did you ever speak to RE/MAX about --7 Α. I don't talk to anybody at RE/MAX. 8 Ο. Would you give me just a second? 9 Α. Yeah. 10 MR. PEARCE: Thanks. I don't have anything 11 further. 12 BY MR. COATES: 13 Mr. Mitchell, I'm Charlie Coates, and I am 0. here for Carol Antoff on behalf of the condo 14 15 association. Are you individually associated with the condo association? 16 17 Α. Yes. 18 What is your capacity with respect to the 19 condo association? 20 I guess I'm president. I guess I am 21 president. 22 Ο, Can you tell me when the condo association 23 was incorporated?

'04, sometime probably, I would think,

24

Α.

COPY

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BELLA VISTA DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a

Virginia corporation, BELLA VISTA

TOWNHOME CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION,

INC., a Delaware corporation,

RE/MAX REALTY GROUP, a Delaware

franchise, WILLIAM J. MITCHELL,

Individually, and WAYNE MITCHELL,

Individually,

Defendants.

Deposition of **WILLIAM JOSEPH MITCHELL**, taken before Cheryl A. Anthony, Court Reporter, in the law offices of Doroshow, Pasquale, Krawitz & Bhaya, 213 East DuPont Highway, Millsboro, Delaware, on Friday, March 16, 2006, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

DOROSHOW, PASQUALE, KRAWITZ & BHAYA BY: JENNIFER S. DONAHUE, ESQUIRE 213 East DuPont Highway Millsboro, Delaware 19966 Attorney for Plaintiff.

(Appearances Cont'd...)

ORIGINAL RETAINED BY JENNIFER S. DONAHUE, ESQUIRE

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PO Box 234
Dover, Delaware 19903
(302)674-8884

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		William Mitchell - Donahue 24
1	Q.	Let me just finish my question.
2	Α.	I'm sorry.
3	Q.	cemented down to the ground level or
4	whether they	were just placed there?
5	А.	I don't know.
6	Q.	Was this unit open to the public before
7	those paver	steps were placed there?
8	А.	Not to my knowledge.
9	Q.	Did those paver steps ever move, or did you
10	ever have to	o adjust them in any way?
11	А.	No.
12	Q.	Do you know how long this unit, this unit 5,
13	was open to	the public with those paver steps?
14	А.	As long as the CO was available.
15	Q.	Do you know when these paver steps were
16	removed fro	m the premises?
17	A.	I don't know.
18	Q.	So you don't know when
19	А.	I don't know the date.
20	Q.	Okay. Do you recall who removed them?
21	Α.	I don't know.
22	Q.	What is in their place now?
23	Α.	Concrete step.
24	Q.	Permanent concrete step?

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William Mitchell - Pearce 42
design of any of that, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. All right. And was anyone at RE/MAX, other
than yourself and your father, involved in this open
house?
A. No.
Q. You said that Jim Kelleher was the broker of
record. But he didn't have anything to do with the open
house or anything else at Bella Vista, did he?
A. Well, at that time he wasn't even with
RE/MAX.
Q. Okay. Who was the broker of record at the
time?
A. At that time, from what I recall, it was Joe
Reed.
Q. Bob Reed?
A. Joe Reed.
Q. Joe Reed.
A. Joe Reed owned RE/MAX Realty Group at that
time. And I think within that year, it was sold to Bob
Reed.
Q. Do you remember, at the time of this
accident, the owner?
A. Joe Reed.

William Mitchell - Pearce 43 Did Joe Reed or Bob Reed have anything to do 1 Ο. with it, other than being the broker --2 3 Α. No. 4 Ο, -- and the owner? 5 Α. No. MR. AKIN: It is best to wait until the 6 question is finished before you give your answer --7 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. 8 MR. AKIN: -- just to make a clearer record. 9 Thank you. 10 BY MR. PEARCE: 11 And you said DC Group was the architect, and 12 Ο. I think you said your father was involved in hiring that 13 14 architect. Did I understand you correctly? Correct. 15 A. Again, that would be wearing his hat for 16 Ο. Bella Vista, LLC and not RE/MAX; would that be fair to 17 18 say? Correct. 19 A. And who obtained the certificate of 20 Q. Was that done through Bella Vista, LLC? 21 occupancy? I guess I'm not real clear what you are 22 Ζ. 23 asking. Okay. The certificate of occupancy was 24 Q.



BUILDING CODE DEPATMENT AND/OR PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE AND/OR OCCUPANCY

SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE

Tax Map & Parcel 234 75 / 70.00		Chapter 115 (Zoning Code) for Sussex County,	34 Lan Malleging 20	Building Code Départment for Certificate of Occupancy	LAND CAR CARA	Denartment	for Certificate of Compliance	(Kelenter)
Date of Issue 그것에 이라	This certifies that the (structure) (premises) described in Permit Number.	and complies with the requirements of the Chapter 52 (Building Code) and Chapter 115 (Zoning Code) for Sussex County, Delaware, and may be occupied as of the above date.	Approved Use www.f.ci~f.amil.y Approved By	Building Cd Building Cd Applicant's Name CHIS Assoc。	112 Westwood Dr. ME	Vienna, VA 22.130 Approved by 11/2 Planning & Zohińa	for Certifice	N/A: Non-Applicable Belle V Str. Bilds II Just 14

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE AND/OR OCCUPANCY

BUILDING CODE DEPATMENT AND/OR PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE

Sussex County, Tax Map & Parce 2 3 √ 19 and complies with the requirements of the Chapter 52 (Building Code) and Chapter 115 (Žoning Code) Approved By / A A Bullding Code Department Cortificate of Occupanty This certifies that the (structure) (premises) described in Permit Number_ (Temporary Permit)

Delaware, and may be occupied as of the above date.

Multi-Pamily

Approved Use

Expiration Date_

Date of Issue (1-6)

ment for

conforms to

Approved By / W.C.u.~
Planning & Zoning Department for Certificate of Compliance

Vincent Place CHB ABBOC.

Applicant's Name

Address

McLean, VA

N/A: Non-Applicable 72. Elte Plan

Per

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A-21



RE/MAX Realty Group 317 Rehoboth Avenue Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971 TEL: 302 227-4800 or 800 955-6350

Supplied By The Susser County Association of REALTORSS, inc. Revised August 1993, Form #2, Copyright

EXCLUSIVE LISTING AGREEMENT

1. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND AGENCY RELATIONSHIP: REMAX REALTY GROUP hereinafter referred to as Broker, in consideration of diligent services to be performed is granted the exclusive right from this date to sell my/our property, identified as follows: District 3-34 Map 19 Parcel 170 ; and identified as: Bella Ursta + Own knowers 300 units Sussess County County County Robbel
Sale to include the following items:
Furnishings: If sold furnished, the following items do not convey:
LEASE CONDITION: Is Property sold subject to any existing lease/rental agreements. Yes
3. LISTED PRICE: The listing price of the property is: \$ \mathcal{B}
4. POSSESSION: Possession is to be conveyed at time of settlement or on such other date agreed to by seller(s) and buyer(s).
5. TERMINATION: This contract will expire at midnight Dic. 3/, 2063
6. CANCELLATION: Either party may cance) this agreement upon 90 days written notice after 90 days from effective da
7. BROKERAGE FEE: Seller(s) agrees to pay Broker a commission of (% &/or \$) of the selling price for services rendered if, during the term of this contract (or extension); (1) Broker produces buyer(s) ready, willing and able to purchase subject property at the listed price/terms or other price/terms acceptable to Seller(s); or (Z) subject property is sold or exchanged by any other broker or person whomsoever including seller(s).
The Brokerage Fee will also be due Broker in the event subject property is sold, conveyed, or otherwise transferred by Seller(s) within <u>90</u> days after termination of this agreement to a buyer introduced to subject property by broker during the term of this agreement. (This provision does NOT APPLY in the event subject property is listed with another broker at time of sale).
8. CO-OPERATION: Broker is authorized to offer cooperation and compensation to other brokers on the following basis. (Seller(s) please initial your choice(s) below.) 1. Subagents: Broker/Agents representing you through our agency. YesNo
2. Buver Agent: Broker/Agent representing the purchaser(s) of property. Yes No
3. Disclosed Limited Dual Agents: Yes No
If yes, Seller(s) acknowledges that Broker/Agent has provided a full disclosure on company's dual agency policy. Seller(s) also acknowledges that from time to time real estate licensees of Broker may elect to represent buyers and may represent both the buyer and the seller in a transaction but only with the knowledge and written consent of both the buyer and the seller. If Broker/Agent obtains written consent to represent both buyer and seller, there is a limitation on the Broker's ability to represent either party fully and exclusively. For example, information obtained within the confidentiality and trust of the fiduciary relationship with one party must not be disclosed to the other party without the prior consent of the party adversely affected by the disclosure.
9. EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO SELL. During the term of this agreement, or any extension(s) thereof, Seller(s) agree not to sell or negotiate for the sale of subject property, except through Broker designated herein, nor give any other broker, firm, or person authorization to sell-or negotiate for the sale of subject property.
10. DISPOSITION OF DEPOSIT MONIES: Seller(s) understands and agrees that, in the absence of a provision in the contract of sale, rental lease, option Agreement, or other similar type of document to the contrary, if a dispute arises between the parties to the transaction as to the disposition of funds escribwed with Broker, the Broker shall: A. Hold these funds until Broker has a release signed by all parties to the transaction authorizing disposition of the funds: OR B. File a bill of interpleader in the proper court, thereby causing these funds to be deposited with the court: OR C. Hold these funds until such time as one of the parties to the transaction files suit and the court orders the disbursement of these funds.

11. SELLER(S) REPRESENTATION: Seller(5) warrants that the information on this Agreement is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief, and may be used as a basis for presenting the Property to prospective Buyers. Seller(s) shall indemnify and hold Broker harmless from any claim, damages, judgment, and costs, expressly including reasonable attorney fees, arising out of or from any occurrence incident to any mistake, exaggeration, omission, inaccuracy of said information, or escrow dispute. Broker will furnish a copy of this Agreement to Seller(s). Seller(s) hereby agrees to conduct all negotiations pertaining to the sale of the Property through the Broker and cooperate with the Broker fully in the Broker's efforts to sell the Property. Seller(s) further understands and agrees that they and not the Broker(s) is responsible for the care and physical condition of the Property, its management, maintenance, and repair. Seller(s) warrants that they are the owner(s) and/or has the authority to sign this Agreement.

12. SELLER'S OBLIGATIONS:

- A. Seller(s) agrees to execute any agreement, deed, leasehold interest assignment or other document(s) necessary to fulfill this agreement. As appropriate, such documents will contain covenants of warranty conveying good and marketable title to Buyer(s). Evidence of marketable title may be in the form of Policy of Title Insurance obtained at expense of Buyer(s). In the event a title examination discloses title is imperfect and marketable title cannot be delivered by Seller(s) within a reasonable time, Broker will nevertheless be entitled to the full agreed commission provided herein.
- B. Seller(s) agrees to furnish to Broker, deed records, proof of ownership, tax records, property income/expense records, existing rental/lease agreements and such other documents as necessary and reasonable to bring about the sale of subject property and give this information to prospective purchaser(s).
- C. Taxes, special assessments, water, sewer, and other public charges, ground rent, condominium fees, rental monies, fuel, public utility charges and other fixed charges are to be prorated as of date of settlement unless otherwise designated herein. Seller(s) acknowledges realty transfer tax obligation as applicable.
- D. Seller(s) agrees to grant Broker access to property and will supply Broker a set of keys.
- E. Seller(s) agrees to refer to Broker all inquiries of brokers, agents or others expressing interest in Seller's property.
- F. Seller(s) has ____ has not ____ filled out a Property Disclosure Statement and hereby acknowledges the information contained therein is accurate and has made no deliberate misrepresentation or omissions as to the known condition of the property. Seller(s) authorizes Broker to convey this information to prospective purchasers.

13. BROKER'S AUTHORITY:

- A. Seller(s) authorizes Broker to accept and hold in escrow a deposit to apply towards purchase price. In the event the deposit is forfeited, one-half will be paid to Seller(s) and one-half paid to Broker as compensation, provided Broker's share does not exceed
- B. Broker, at his expense, is authorized to advertise property for sale and to place a "For Sale" sign on the premises.
- C. If property is sold under this agreement, Broker may display a "Sale Pending/Sold" sign on property until date of final settlement. Broker agrees to remove all signs upon termination of this agreement.
- D. Seller(s) authorizes Broker to submit listed property to any Multiple Listing Service in which Broker is a participant.
- E. Seller(s) agrees ____ to authorize Broker to put a lock box on the property and agrees to indemnify and hold Broker, his associates, cooperating brokers, their associates and the Sussex County Association of REALTORS® harmless from and against any and all claims, damages, costs, expenses and attorney's fees arising out of the use of said lockbox and key, including but not limited to, claims or damages for injury to persons or property.

14. BROKER'S OBLIGATION:

- A. Broker agrees to diligently utilize the marketing resources of Broker to obtain a qualified buyer.
- B. To obtain descriptive and factual information from seller(s) about seller(s) property and to update such information as warranted
- C. To advertise Seller's property as Broker deems advisable.
- D. Seller(s) agrees that Broker is not responsible for fire, vandalism, theft, damage or destruction of any nature caused by others during term of this listing agreement.
- 15. FAIR HOUSING: Seller(s) agrees to comply with all Fair Housing and Civil Rights laws in the sale of this property and further agrees specifically not to discriminate against any person because of RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, RELIGION, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, HANDICAP OR FAMILIAL STATUS.
- 16. HEIRS AND ASSIGNS: This agreement is binding upon the parties' respective heirs, personal representatives, successors and
- 17. ENTIRE AGREEMENT: This contract constitutes the entire terms and provisions of this Exclusive Listing Agreement between Seller(s) and Broker and may be used as a basis for presenting the property to prospective purchasers. If this agreement is signed by more than one person, it shall constitute the joint and several obligations of each. This Agreement contains the entire Agreement of the parties and cannot be changed except by their written consent. This Agreement shall survive execution and delivery of the Agreement of Sale and closing documents and shall not be merged therein.

18. SPECIAL TERMS: Tricis to be 455/2 1 @ a	Late Deta -		
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Commission to be od at 5 lthe	1 gol -		
19. ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I/we as Seller(s) acknowledge receipt of a copy of and agree to this Exclusive Listing Agreement.			
Owner(s) Name: CHS ASSOCIATES	Effective Date OC 17 , 20 0 2		
Address: 1307 Vincent Place	Owner (SEAL)		
McLeun, Virginia 22101	Owner Bice (SEAL)		
Social Security #	Listing Agent WAyin M.Lbr // (SEAL)		
703 - 848 - 1747 Res. Phone 703 - 957 - 157 Prince Phone B	roker Acceptance(SEAL)		
302-226-0100			



April 30, 2007

Andrea G. Green, Esq. Doroshow Pasquale Krawitz & Bhaya 213 E. Dupont Highway Millsboro, DE 19966 VIA FAX: 302 934 8400

Re: Sandra Fluck fall

Dear Attorney Green:

On June 27, 2004 Sandra Fluck was viewing a model home at the Bella Vista Townhome and Condominium development in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. While exiting, she fell at the edge of the unit's exterior stair to grade, and she was injured. You asked that I determine if the building conditions were dangerous in a manner that caused Fluck's fall. I've reviewed the Amended Complaint, Sandra Fluck's deposition and photographs of the area. I understand additional material, including the deposition of the builder, will be gathered in the future. After reviewing that material, I may supplement this report.

BACKGROUND

The front door of the model unit exited onto a concrete platform which is substantially level with the interior floor level. The platform was raised about 9" above grade and it served as the top landing of the egress stair connecting the unit to grade. When Fluck visited this model, the condominium project was still under construction. The exterior stair had not been completed, and while the model was being shown, three landscaping blocks had been placed to create a temporary two-riser stair down to grade.

Two columns flank the outer edge of the platform and define the landing width. Only three 14" wide landscaping blocks were placed, and the temporary stair was much shorter than the platform edge between the columns. The gap along the right edge was about 24" wide. There were no handrails at the stair nor were there any rails, guards, planters or other means to define and protect the parts of the platform edge where there was no stair.

Fluck was 57 years old and in good health. The weather was nice, and she was wearing shorts, a top and boat shoe loafers. She and her companion saw a sign advertising the open model and spent about 20 minutes viewing the unit. As they exited, her companion preceded her and walked across the landing and down the stair. Fluck then walked across the platform and, believing the stair extended the full width of the platform edge, she descended to the right of the

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platform's center. She stepped down the first riser with her left foot onto the stair tread. She intended to step down to the same tread with her right foot; however the stair didn't extend far enough. Her right foot came down unsupported, and she lost her balance. There were no handrails and she was unable to recover her balance. She fell, twisting her left foot and she was injured.

DISCUSSION

Fluck fell because conditions at the platform led her to believe the stair was the same width as the platform edge, but it was much narrower. There were no rails, planters or other devices placed to delineate the actual safe exit width. The stair lacked handrails which, had they been present, would have unambiguously delineated the safe width of egress and would also have provided Fluck with a means to maintain her balance and avoid falling.

Short flight stairs such as the one where Fluck fell are associated with increased falls because their low height impairs the ability of users to reliably identify their presence and nature. ASTM/ANSI F1637, Standard Practice for Safe Walking Surfaces, is a nationally accepted practice for fall prevention. F1637 directs that stairs with three or fewer risers "shall be avoided where possible" and:

In situations where a short flight stair or single step transition exists or cannot be avoided, obvious visual cues shall be provided to facilitate improved step identification. Handrails, delineated nosing edges, tactile cues, warning signs, contrast in surface colors, and accent lighting are examples of some appropriate warning cues.

In cases where owners rely on color to delineate tripping hazards, F1637 guides them to follow the national standard ANSI-Z535.1, Safety Color Coding. Z535 identifies safety yellow as the national standard color for identifying tripping hazards. There were no yellow markings where Fluck fell.

Handrails act as necessary safety equipment at stairs, and rails should have been installed at this stair. Rails delineate the location, boundaries and character of a stair, assist users to descend safely and also act as a grab bar to assist users to recover their balance when needed. Since 1978, the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Guidelines for Stair Safety cautioned:

IF:

there are no handrails on one or both sides of an interior or exterior

flight of stairs, or:

THEN:

install a properly positioned guardrail, with an attached handrail,

for the entire length of the flight.

Bella Vista's model was an attached single-family townhome. The National Life Safety Code, NFPA-101 is a nationally accepted standard that includes requirements for one and two-family dwellings. This stair was required to conform to:

Stairs and intermediate landings shall continue with no decrease in width along the direction of egress travel (7-2.2.3.2)

Stairs and ramps shall have handrails on both sides (7.2.2.4.2)

The <u>International Residential Code for One and Two-Family Dwellings</u> is a well established national safety standard for the design and construction of single family residences. It is also adopted by Sussex County. Section 315, Handrails, required:

Handrails... shall be provided on at least one side of stairways. All required handrails shall be continuous the full length of the stairs with two or more risers from a point directly above the top riser of a flight to a point directly above the lowest riser of a flight (R315.1).

FINDINGS

Within the bounds of reasonable architectural certainty, and subject to change if additional information becomes available, it is my professional opinion that this stair violated applicable standards, and created a deceptive and dangerous condition that caused Fluck's fall.

If you require anything else, please let me know.

Lawrence C. Dinoff, A.I.A.